

An E-mail Publication
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Community

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Publisher/Editor:
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Bulletin Board

Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

The Heart of the Community

As I was putting together this issue, it occurred to me that MCBMRDD is involved in many community activities that go beyond the scope of routine services at the Board. Helping others is part of the program but it extends beyond the workday as staff are willing to work beyond quitting time to assist with emergencies. Employees can be found working hard at Library Night at Bev and Evening Activities at Meshel to ensure that consumers are treated to an evening that is devoted to their interests, helping to make the rest of the monthly routine more bearable as they look forward to the next program activity. These evenings are very important to consumers who may not have any other type of social experience during the month aside from group home or family activities. The caring attitude



continues into weekends with Relay for Life or Special Olympics events. Workers are willing to take a day of vacation to assist with levy campaign efforts. The staff at LKS have planned and organized fund raisers that occur on weekends to draw maximum participation and ensure a successful outcome. Staff has been willing to give time and money to worthwhile causes such as the Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and other charities that pull at the heart and pocketbook. All of this when we are submerged in our own struggles and concerns in



the classrooms or work groups. The MCBMRDD is made up of people who care about their jobs but also see the bigger picture and want to help others in need. Thank you for your support to all these programs. You will never know how many ways your kind efforts have touched the lives of others.

United Way Day of Caring

Administrative Staff from MCBMRDD programs rolled up shirts sleeves and dug into some landscaping work to assist program families in need of help. Moving river rocks, cutting grass, cleaning gutters, trimming trees and creating flower beds were all part of the day of caring for MCBMRDD Staff.



Transportation Department



Being prepared is not just for Boy Scouts. The transportation department recently participated in a joint training with the Austintown Fire Department. A slide show of pictures from the training can be viewed online at the MCBMRDD web site @ www.mahoningmrdd.org. Waymond Grace and Barb Lovell coordinated the efforts for MCBMRDD for this outstanding exercise in emergency preparedness.



Leonard Kirtz School

Lane Ambulance recently visited the Austintown school with lights and sirens sounding but no one was in need of emergency services. Students from LKS got a taste of the world of the emergency medical technician (EMT) as part of a series of learning units involving community helpers. The emergency response team demonstrated lifesaving equipment with hands on displays of treatments used to save lives. The



EMTs also related stories of emergencies and how they helped people who were close to death. The children got first hand knowledge of splints, electrocardiographs and other life saving equipment stored in the well stocked emergency vehicle. Other planned field trips involving community helpers include visits to White House Fruit Farm for the farmer's unit and Schwebel's for the baker's unit. Learning about community helpers is only half the lesson as the community helpers also learn about people with disabilities.

Community Services

The Community Services Department recently participated in a Superintendent's forum to learn about ongoing issues and concerns at a program wide level. The SSAs and Board Office staff had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments about various program issues. Superintendent Duck holds quarterly forums at each program location to keep staff updated and informed about current events happening at the local and state levels of MRDD. If you have a question regarding the MCBMRDD between forum visits, please contact Paul Iden at the Board Office and I will try to address it in an upcoming issue of the Bulletin Board.



The Centre @ Javit Court

An oasis in the middle of Austintown, a place to sit and reflect on friends, listen to the birds, watch the clouds or just enjoy the time outdoors. All these are objectives of the memory garden being constructed at The Centre @ Javit Court with

the assistance of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown. Several raised flower beds will line an existing sidewalk that leads to the twin pavilions at the back of the Seniors facility. Garden benches and decorative stones will enhance a vine covered arbor to give the serene space a feeling of home and a respite for the weary. The garden will serve as a memorial to those who have passed away and a place of rest for the living. If you are interested in making a donation to the garden, please contact Jim Groner at the Centre.



Bev MASCO



With the increase to the workday for workshop specialists and habilitation coordinators, the staff at the workshops will implement a schedule of training classes to assist consumers in a variety of life-skill areas. The classes were developed by a team of parents, administration and staff. Program classes will begin October 2 on a regular schedule of four days per week. Three class topics will be offered per quarter on a rotating basis to allow each interested consumer

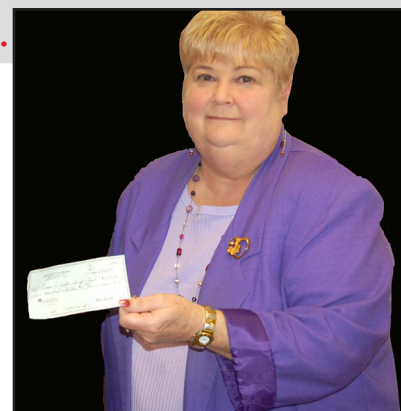
to participate. The staff will alternate shifts in the classroom. Second shift staff will work with first shift consumers in the mornings while first shift staff will work with second shift consumers in the afternoon. The curriculum for the classes is designed to provide a habilitation program to all consumers and offer an alternative activity at the day programs of Bev and Meshel.



Marie Capps from Bev, is one of the winners from the Canfield Fair

Meshel MASCO

During the month of August, the workshop committee at Meshel sold meatball splashes and hotdogs to support a child in need. The monies totaling \$213 were donated to a benefit fund at First National Bank to support Owen Allen Waller, a 21 month old child diagnosed with Pre B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. The check was presented to Bank Manager Carol Varverys by workshop specialist Michael Congemi and Director George Gabriel. The gift will aid the family in caring for Owen and is another example of the caring spirit demonstrated by the staff of the MCBMRDD. Further donations can be made to the Owen Allen Walker Benefit Fund by contacting George Gabriel at Meshel or the First National Bank at 670 Boardman-Poland Road in Boardman.



Bank Manager Carol Varverys

Staff profile: Focus on Excellence

"Simply irreplaceable"

Three long term staff persons at Bev MASCO have decided to slip into the comfortable shoes of retirement and conclude their careers with MCBMRDD. Leila Meris and Marge Bubon, workshops specialists and Joyce Hicks, a 5.5 hour nurse for the Boardman shop, will say farewell but not goodbye. Each staff person brings something unique to their positions and Leila, Marge and Joyce were no exception to this rule. Leila is meticulous with her work and very observant of the workers in her area. Often working in a production group, Leila could manage the production levels with competent perfection while still maintaining excellent quality care of all the individuals within her group and adjacent groups. Marge frequently worked in the habilitation groups where production was not a high priority. She took her supervision responsibilities very seriously and took the job of workshop specialist "to heart" with a positive attitude of doing whatever it takes to care for her consumers. Joyce performed her duties with the skill and professionalism that is a hallmark of the nursing staff at MCBMRDD. She demonstrated a keen knowledge of the consumers at Bev and the intuition to know when someone wasn't feeling well and how to assist them with all the modern medical wonders available today. Compassionate and caring are two of the adjectives others have used to describe these veteran workers. Thank you for your dedication to duty, your kindness to others and your warm smiles. Your presence has brightened the days of countless people and your absence will be missed. Good luck in retirement.



Bits and pieces

Staff react quickly to avoid disaster

George Gabriel and Lynn Seekford reacted quickly, effectively and efficiently to provide emergency first aid in an incident involving a choking victim that may have been life threatening if not for the

actions of these staff persons. While

volunteering at the monthly evening

activity (an outdoor end of summer party and car show) at Meshel

MASCO, Lynn was informed of an emergency situation occurring in the

crowd of approximately 250 people. Lynn moved quickly to access the

situation noting the individual had already begun to suffer from a lack of

oxygen and was quickly losing consciousness. Another party-goer was

attempting the Heimlich maneuver unsuccessfully when George and

Lynn stepped in to successfully dislodge the airway blockage and restore

normal breathing to the individual. Former staff person Sue Robinson

called the emergency medical services and the individual was transported to the local hos-

pital. The individual suffered no ill effects from the ordeal. Most of the crowd had no idea

of the life and death drama that occurred at the party and continued to celebrate the end of

summer. George and Lynn reacted seamlessly and professionally using training provided by

the Board to save the life of a consumer of services at MCBMRDD without drawing undue

attention or disturbing the evening for the rest of the individuals. It is not often that we have

the opportunity to step in and utilize training in such a dramatic event as saving someone's

life. Congratulations George and Lynn on a job very well done!



Lynn Seekford



George Gabriel

What's going on

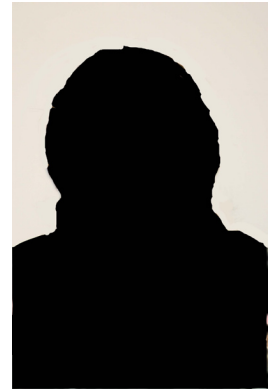
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October 9, Board Meeting at Leonard Kirtz School
October 12, Library Night at Bev Road MASCO
October 13, NEOEA Day,
October 16, National Boss Day
October 27, Evening Activity at Meshel
October 29, Daylight Savings Time Ends

Who am I ?

Last month: Tony Napolitano

The following interview was conducted with an MCBMRDD employee. Who is it?
Submit your guess to piden@zoominternet.net

1. Where were you born? *Youngstown, Ohio*
2. What are your hobbies and interests? *exercise, shopping, spending time with family and watching sports*
3. What is your favorite movie? *"The Notebook"*
4. Where is your favorite place to be? *On a beach*
5. What makes you happy? *My family*
6. If you could meet anyone living or dead, who would it be? *The band members of "Rascal Flatts"*
7. What is your favorite MCBMRDD memory? *Getting to meet my consumers for the first time*
8. Describe yourself in five words or less. *Energetic, Kind, Friendly, Animal-loving and thoughtful*
9. What is your biggest success in life to this point? *My child*
10. What is something you would really like to do in the future? *Go on a cruise with Peggy Burkey*



Editor's Note: The logo last month was hidden in the picture in the staff profile of nursing services. Good Luck this month! The "Just the Facts" section has been removed from this edition and may return next month. If you hear a rumor, let me know and I will try to address it for you and quote the source of the information or at least tell you "I don't know."